United Nations E/2010/NGO/31

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
3 May 2010

Original: English

Substantive session of 2010
New York, 28 June-22 July 2010
Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women

Statement submitted by Peace Boat, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

10-34265 (E) 110610

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Statement

Danang Declaration on the Empowerment of Women

At the initiative of Peace Boat and its 900 passengers, hosted by the Viet Nam Peace and Development Foundation in Danang (Viet Nam), on 22 and 23 April 2010, a Millennium Development Goals Asian round table was convened to discuss the 2010 annual ministerial review theme, with non-governmental organizations representatives from Brunei, China, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam, parliamentarians from Cambodia, and representatives from the Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Association of Economic and Social Councils, and survivors of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

The following declaration was approved:

We, the participants of the Danang Millennium Development Goals round table:

- Recognizing that the Beijing Platform for Action adopted in 1995 constitutes the benchmark for any future progress in gender equality and empowerment of women;

- Considering the 2010 report of the Secretary-General entitled "Keeping the promise: a forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015" (A/64/665), the report submitted at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) workshop on Millennium Development Goals analysis and operational indicators for gender mainstreaming and equality, held at the Asian Institute of Technology, in Bangkok, on 28 and 29 January 2010, which summarized progress and obstacles found in the ASEAN region in achieving the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action as well as the Millennium Development Goals, and pointing to the serious economic setbacks and political events of recent years, which aggravate the gender situation;

- Considering the discrepancy between the responsibilities imposed by the Millennium Development Goals on women and on mothers, and the minimal resources and means made available to them for these purposes, which are not commensurate with world community expectations;

Recommended to the Economic and Social Council that:

- The Secretary-General should be congratulated for reaffirming the emphasis on achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, as well as on the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, for his commitment to reducing military expenditures in order to boost Millennium Development Goals achievement, for his "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" campaign in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

- At the local and grass-roots levels, intergovernmental organizations, Government organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations should be brought together to a common platform for implementing Millennium Development Goals-related activities with reallocation and additional allocation of resources with mandates on gender responsive budgeting.

- The centrality of women should be made paramount in all United Nations programmes related to the Millennium Development Goals, in closer cooperation with national women machineries and non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations.

- The next five-year platform for action and projects on the Millennium Development Goals should reflect a change of focus towards greater women's empowerment and leadership at the grass-roots level, and Government and relevant ministries should have appropriate and sufficient policies and resources to educate girls and women so that they can have qualifications to assume real leadership.

- Peace Boat and the Viet Nam Peace and Development Foundation should continue their peace and development activities, including a nuclear disarmament campaign, for the Millennium Development Goals worldwide and submit this Danang declaration to the attention of the Economic and Social Council in terms of the annual ministerial review for the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2010.

- Training and education on Millennium Development Goals, in collaboration with the Millennium Campaign, academic and other institutions must be expanded.

- Strategic partnerships between Government agencies, development partners, non-governmental organizations and civil society should be developed and strengthened to promote genuine participation of all stakeholders in all aspects of decision-making, including international cooperation.